



**STUDENT SERVICES**

Concordia Council on Student Life

**Minutes of the Concordia Council on Student Life  
Held on April 5, 2024 10:00am  
Hybrid Meeting at SGW H-655 & on Zoom**

**PRESENT:** Katie Broad (Acting Dean of Students), Lauren Broad (Interim Chair), Daniel Amico (Interim Secretary), Elana Bloom, Alexandrah Cardona, Matthew Fishman, Julie Foisy, Victoria Gorman, Charbel Hachem, Cassandra Lamontagne, Kiara Madison Nunes-Mancini, Irene Petsopoulos, Sarah Rahimi, D'Arcy Ryan, Maria Safos, Antoinette Scaringi, Maya Youngs-Zaleski, Masoumeh Zaare.

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Ashley Allen, Dianne Cmor, Sumaiya Gangat.

**ABSENT:** Tanou Bah, Annette Bowen, Melanie Burnett, Sarah Caille, Melissa Calderisi, Darren Dumoulin, Hua Ge, Emma Girgis, Nadia Hardy, Coco Mariano, Christian Taboada.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

Victoria Gorman moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Maria Safos.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 12  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 0

***The motion passed unanimously.***

**2. Remarks from the Chair**

The Chair started the meeting and welcomed acting Dean of Students Katie Broad to the Council. Katie Broad was invited to introduce herself and give the Territorial Acknowledgement.

**3. Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting of March 8, 2024**

Antoinette Scaringi moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 8, 2024, seconded by Irene Petsopoulos.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 11  
Against: 0  
Abstentions: 1

***The motion passed.***



## STUDENT SERVICES

Concordia Council on Student Life

### **4. Business Arising from the Minutes of March 8, 2024**

#### **4.1 Motion to Update the CCSL Special Projects Maximum Amount Requested**

The Chair reminded the Council that at the last meeting Julie Foisy, Chair of the Special Projects Sub-Committee, introduced idea to lower the maximum requested amount from \$20,000 to \$10,000. The reason was to avoid giving students unreasonable expectations of what they could expect to receive from the fund. With the Council's agreement, a formal motion was brought to the April meeting.

Maria Safos put forth the following motion, seconded by Victoria Gorman:

*Given that the Concordia Council on Student Life Special Projects Fund is confirmed at \$165,000 per year;*

*Given that each year, \$20,000 of the fund is earmarked for the Committee Participation Recognition Program and \$20,000 of the fund is earmarked for the CSU Housing and Job Resource Centre projects, leaving a balance of \$125,000 each year;*

*Given that the total amount requested from applicants each year is several times higher than the amount available in the fund;*

*Given that the majority of applicants are approved for only a fraction of the requested amount because of the limited amount of funds available;*

*Given that the current maximum amount that may be requested per project from the CCSL Special Projects Fund is \$20,000;*

*In order to create more reasonable expectations for applicants as to what amount of funding they may receive;*

#### **Be it resolved that:**

*Beginning in the 2024-2025 funding year, the maximum amount that may be requested per project from the CCSL Special Projects Fund will be reduced to \$10,000.*

Elana Bloom asked why the amount of \$10,000 was chosen as the maximum amount that may be requested. The Chair explained that even projects requesting \$20,000 end up receiving between \$5,000 to \$10,000 as a maximum, and some even less. It was noted that the sub-committee considered lowering the maximum request amount even lower, but thought that it would be too considerable of a change. Elana Bloom asked if it was known whether the funding was fully spent or not when the applicants were finished their projects. The Chair responded that although the fund was fully allocated to projects, there was often between \$5,000 and \$15,000 left over once the projects were reconciled. This was because some projects were cancelled, while others only claim a portion of the approved funding. The unused

**STUDENT SERVICES**

Concordia Council on Student Life

funds transfers into a trust fund, which over the past several years has been earmarked for the *Big Hairy Ideas Competition*, funding large projects with a big impact on campus. Elana Bloom also asked if this motion were to pass, whether more projects could potentially be funded. The Chair responded that more smaller projects may be fully funded, and it may give more of a chance for other projects to receive funding if they would not have otherwise.

Antoinette Scaringi suggested that given there may be extra funds at the end of each year, the Council could fund certain projects retro-actively that had been rejected. The Chair responded that though that would be an option, most of the other projects would have already happened by June. Lauren Broad added that very few projects were actually denied funding each year.

Julie Foisy referred to the minutes of last meeting, which showed that in the winter 2024 semester, 32 of 37 of the applications requesting less than \$5,000 were approved for funding, and 4 of 9 of the applications requesting more than \$5,000 were approved for funding, confirming that most applicants receive funding, at least partially. Julie Foisy also stated that the *Big Hairy Ideas Competition* was a wonderful initiative that allowed several highly impactful projects to get off the ground in the past few years, therefore it would be a huge loss to lose access to the unused funds to support the competition.

The Chair noted the suggestions and comments and may bring it to the Special Projects Sub-Committee for further investigation.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 10  
Against: 1  
Abstentions: 1

***The motion passed.***

## **5. Reports and Items of Information**

### **5.1 CCSL Sub-Committees**

#### **5.1.1 CCSL Special Projects: Presentation by Applicant of Selected Special Projects**

The Chair informed the Council that due to unforeseen circumstances, Adrienne Pan from The Quebec Public Interest Research Group at Concordia University (QPIRG Concordia) was unable to attend the meeting. Lauren Broad said that the presentation on the “QPIRG Kiki Ball & Workshop Series” would be tabled to the next meeting.

## **6. New Business**

There was no new business at the meeting.

**STUDENT SERVICES**

Concordia Council on Student Life

**7. Points of Interest**

The following items were shared with the Council members:

- The Dean of Students Office would be hosting a celebration event to thank the student leaders. University staff that support their mandates were also invited. The event would be held on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in H-655.02.
- The Solar Eclipse would be on Monday April 8<sup>th</sup> at about 3pm.
- Classes were to end April 15<sup>th</sup>; the Chair wished all students good luck as they approached finals.
- The Concordia Engagement Awards Celebration was to be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at the Loyola Chapel. All Council members were encouraged to attend.
- Entrance bursaries for incoming students would open on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Students in need could reach out to the Financial Aid and Awards Office.
- Convocation registration would open on April 8<sup>th</sup>. All potential graduates should receive an email soon.
- Student Success Centre would be hosting two information sessions on the Rhodes Scholarship for the University of Oxford on April 11<sup>th</sup> and the McCall MacBain Scholarship for McGill University on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for May 3, 2024 at 10am in-person at SGW-H-655 or virtually on Zoom.

**9. Termination of Meeting**

Julie Foisy motioned to terminate the meeting, seconded by Antoinette Scaringi.

The motion was put to a vote:

In favour: 12

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

***The motion passed unanimously.***